they had a supply Sabbath before last. A sort of ambiguous letter came here, addressed to Dr. Beecher & myself from a young gentleman at New Haven, whose name I have forgotten, from which we inferred that a supply was wanted for Hopkinton. This came into my hands on Friday afternoon. Being engaged myself at Medford, I gave the letter, & committed the whole subject, to Br. Turner. Whether he sent any one up, I am unable to say, as I have not seen him since.

Br. Nash is very decidedly of the opinion that you had better return immediately, & I think so too. You will make the whole matter easy, & I would have the ordination as soon as practicable. The devil & his folks are determined to make difficulty, if possible; and we must, if possible, defeat them. You must try to be there before another Sabbath, indeed I would go directly on. At any rate, if they are depending on you for a supply, you must send them one from N. Haven if you cannot come. Our several ministers are absent, and there is a very urgent call for all the unsettled ministers in this region to labor here. But I hope you will return yourself. This thing is of too much importance to be left at hazard, or to be sacrificed to any considerations of mere delicacy or convenience.

Remember me very affectionately to Dr. Taylor,

& believe me, as ever, your very sincere friend — Enoch Pond

Dear Phelps. When opening this letter I doubted for a while whether to read it or no but as there may be some hints in the best hand which may be worth more than a postage to you. I read it Yrs sincerely J M Peck

49 Boston Monday July 26. 1830.

Dear Sir, I received yours of the 22 Saturday forenoon in Boston. Soon after receiving it, Br. Frank from Framingham came in, and I read it to him. He says he knows of no uneasiness at Hopkinton except this — the lawyer there has endeavoured to create a dissatisfaction on account of your reserving several Sabbaths in a year to be absent, should you find a necessity. On this subject, I would not be strenuous, and were I to be settled in the ministry again, I would not stipulate at all, unless it were to say, in the general, that when I found it necessary to be absent for a Sabbath or two to visit my friends, I presumed there would be no objection. A minister can always go when it is necessary, whether he stipulates or not, and if he stipulate ever so closely, if he is a good minister, he will not leave his people more than necessity requires.

In regard to a supply for yesterday, I fear the people were destitute. I am engaged now for several Sabbaths at Medford, during the absence of Br. Warner, and of course could not go. Br. Frank & I made diligent search for a while after a minister to go, but did not succeed. I then left the business with Br. Frank, & came home. He afterwards persuaded Mr. Stowe (who is boarding with me) to say he would go to Medford, if I would go to Hopkinton. But when Br. Stowe came home, it was too late for the stage, and I could not procure a horse & chaise in Cambridge Port to go. The consequence is, I did not go; and I know not that any body was there. I exceedingly regret this, but there seemed to be no remedy. — I am not certain that